

## Coins

# *Indian-cent legacy is a plus for collectors*

By Roger Boye

**SOME QUESTIONS** from Tribune readers are answered in today's column.

**Q**—About 40 years ago, my grandfather saved the Indian-head pennies he got in change. He died last spring, and we would like to know if his 120-coin collection has any special value.—P.D., Chicago.

**A**—Indian-head cents are collector's items, although most of the coins made from 1887 to 1909 sell for less than \$1 in good condition (the exceptions are 1894, 1908-S, and 1909-S). Buy a copy of R.S. Yeoman's Red Book at a hobby store and evaluate the collection.

**Q**—I recently found a pretty medal that has Andrew Jackson's portrait on one side and some information about him on the other side. What can you tell me about this piece?—A.D., Maywood.

**A**—It's impossible to identify your medal without more information on the wording, design, metal composition, and size. However, your piece probably is not worth much because relatively few people collect the thousands of medals being produced by private mints.

For example, at least one manufacturer has distributed in boxes of cereal millions of medals with presidential portraits. Those pieces have almost no collector value.

**Q**—You recently published the ordering address for United States proof sets. Where can I write to obtain sets of Canadian coins?—M.A., Chicago.

**A**—To obtain an order form, write Coins Uncirculated, Box 470, Station A, Ottawa, Ont., Canada. The Royal Canadian Mint sells three types of coin sets, ranging in price from \$5.25 to \$16.50. Deadline for 1978 set orders is Oct. 31.

**Q**—I have purchased three proof sets from a coin dealer who used the term "frosted proof" to describe some of the coins. What's the difference between a frosted proof and regular proof coin? Did I get gypped?—J.G., Evanston.

**A**—The Bureau of the Mint produced "frosted proof coins" before 1936. They have dull, frosted-looking designs and lettering, rather than the sharp, mirrorlike designs on the so-called "brilliant proofs" minted since 1936.

Even today, however, the first 15 or 20 proof coins made from a new die tend to have frosted-looking designs, although the appearance generally does not affect the value of the coins.

**Questions about coins and collecting? Send them to me, in care of Arts & Fun, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Av., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Please do not send coins, and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want a personal reply.**